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IMPROVED METHODS LOWER LABOR CONSUMPTION,  
BUT LAG IN MECHANIZATION RETARDS CONSTRUCTION

In 1949, 105,500,000,000 rubles of state budget and economic organization capital is being spent on capital construction. This is 37 percent more than was spent in 1948.

N. K. Leonidov, B. M. Iosev, B. A. Khokhlov, and others were responsible for development and construction of the all-welded blast furnace. Engineer S. A. Mironov and his group have developed and introduced methods of doing concrete, reinforced concrete, and stone work under winter conditions. A group of specialists headed by P. P. Velikhovyy has developed new types of equipment for assembling metal machinery. A collective headed by S. V. Korninyy has radically improved methods of gas main construction.

Several blast and open-hearth furnaces, hydroelectric and thermoelectric power plants, coal-concentrating factories, a cement plant, and a coke range must be built this year.

A blast furnace of the Krivoy Rog Metallurgical Plant was built in 5 months in 1948 through use of block assembly.

Use of girder coverings in installation of ceilings is reducing labor consumption 2 - 3 times.

Mechanization of loading and unloading work and transport and hoisting operations is especially important. These tasks entail 60 percent of all construction labor consumption. Use of containers cuts labor consumption in the loading and unloading of wall materials more than half.

The builders of heavy industry enterprises of the south and east have promised to raise the level of hauling brick and slag blocks in containers to 80 percent of the Five-Year Plan total by the end of 1949.

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In the 3 years of the postwar Five-Year Plan houses of a total area of approximately 51 million square meters have been built and reconstructed in the cities and villages. Nevertheless, the planned housing program is not fulfilled. This year builders must accomplish their tasks ahead of time.

Advanced construction methods have been used in housing built by the Zaporozhstroy Trust. Branch enterprises manufacture cornice blocks, cast window frames, assembled reinforced concrete crosspieces and architectural parts. Carpentry and joiner products are made in the wood-working combine. Use of high-speed conveyer systems cut Zaporozhstroy labor consumption in half and made it possible to complete construction of buildings in half the length of time previously required.

High-speed conveyer systems are being used in construction of entire blocks and settlements in the Donbass, Karaganda, Siberia, and other regions of the Soviet Union. This year 30 percent of all small house construction must be built by conveyer systems.

The lag in mechanization of finishing and carpentry and joiner work is retarding construction. The level must be raised considerably. In 1948 in the Ministry of Construction of Heavy Industry Enterprises and in construction by the Ministry of Construction of Machine-Building Enterprises only 18.5 percent of plastering was done by mechanized means. More than 30 percent of all workers in house construction do plastering.

The Ministry of Construction and Road-Machine Building to date has not organized mass production of mortar pumps with a discharge of one cubic meter per hour which are very necessary for housing. It has also not introduced portable compressors with a discharge of 0.5 and 0.25 cubic meters per minute for plastering and painting, various types of paint sprayers, multipurpose electric painting control panels, small machines for sanding floors, and other machines. Strangely enough, however, this ministry has introduced production of such complicated machinery as the E - 505 excavator of the Kovrov Plant.

Utilization of the entire pool of construction machinery is still unsatisfactory. In the first quarter of this year even the norms which made great allowances for the off season were not fulfilled by the construction ministries for some basic machinery. The norms of equipment utilization must not only be fulfilled, but exceeded.

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